

ARSON CHARGED BY WIFE.

John Yeager, an Astoria Druggist, Accused of Firing His Own House.

The home of John Yeager, a druggist who lives in Van Alst avenue, in the Astoria section of Long Island City, came nearly going up in smoke yesterday morning, and now the police are looking for him to explain circumstances that they regard as suspicious.

Their suspicions were aroused by a story told by Mrs. Yeager, who charges that her husband, exasperated by quarrels with her, took her best dress and saturated it with kerosene, then placed it in a clothes basket, covered it over with the pieces of a parlor table, and started a bonfire to consume his home, his children, and his wife.

Yeager is thirty-three years old, and his wife says that until he became a slave to liquor he was industrious and successful. He formerly lived in Connecticut. He had a fiery temper, and was popular in Astoria with none but his children, two bright girls of five and seven.

The Yeagers have been married ten years and lived in New York until they went to Astoria, two years ago. Their home is in a row of five houses, each occupied by two families, and until Yeager broke the furniture yesterday morning it was fitted up neatly.

QUARRELLED WITH HIS WIFE. According to his wife's story they had a quarrel Thursday morning and he left the house in a rage.

"He was sober then," she said, "but he had lost his position because he had been drinking, and when he went to New York I suppose he met his friends. He got back about 3 o'clock in the morning, but I was so afraid I had taken my children and had gone upstairs to my neighbor, Mrs. Beck. I could hear him smash the furniture," she said, "and she commenced weeping."

The Beck family—Mr. Beck, his wife and their son, a young man—said that Yeager made a great disturbance for about half an hour, and then for a few minutes everything was quiet. The younger Mr. Beck in the meantime had gone quietly to the door of the Yeager home, and while listening to hear what Yeager was doing, he thought he smelled smoke. He called to the others, then knocked at the door, and, receiving no response, broke it in. Yeager ran past him, and Beck saw, as he stepped into the hallway, that there was a blaze in the kitchen.

It was in a big clothes basket, and Mr. Beck extinguished it with a bucket of water.

BURNED HIS WIFE'S DRESS. Beck investigated and found, he says, that a dress of Mrs. Yeager had been saturated with oil, that it had been placed in the bottom of the basket, then covered over with broken pieces of furniture, and had been left blazing in the middle of the kitchen floor.

He has no doubt that Yeager had made the preparations carefully to destroy his home, and that he could not help knowing he was placing his wife and children in peril. Mrs. Yeager says, too, that she took her husband was driven to the parlor act by his rage, and that he believed that she and their children were in her room. He had taken her dress from her, she said; it was the best dress owned, and the table that was sitting upon it was one of the pieces of furniture she prized.

The woman was so heart-broken that she had not, up to last night, cleared up the debris of her home. Three big mirrors were broken, parlor chairs were torn apart, a picture frame was splintered, and the ruins were scattered in every room except the one in which she and the children usually slept.

The children were asleep early last evening, and Mrs. Yeager led the way with a lamp to the crib as proudly as could a mother in a happy home.

"It's too bad," she said, "that your papa should be so bad. He would never be so if it wasn't for his drinking."

Chief Deleahanty, of the Long Island City Fire Department, made an investigation yesterday and asked the police afterward to arrest Yeager if they could find him.

Orders to this effect were given, but up to a late hour there had been no report of Yeager having been seen.

IN A HYPNOTIC SLEEP. Victim Cannot Be Awakened Until a Week Has Passed—The Hypnotist Arrested and Fined.

Fort Wayne, Ind., April 3.—Santaneli, a hypnotist, who has been exhibiting in this city, was arrested yesterday at the instance of the Humane Society, charged with assault upon the person of James Mahoney.

At night Santaneli put Mahoney in a hypnotic sleep, which is to last for a week, light. Santaneli's subject was sleeping at the Temple Opera house, watched and guarded by medical students, who take the temperature, respiration and pulse hourly. The Humane Society is active today in an effort to secure action against the hypnotist to awaken the subject, but have so far failed, as the medical students, most of the doctors and other subjects who have slept a week say they believe the sleep of six days will not be injurious.

The sleeper's condition at noon to-day, the fifth day of his sleep, is not discouraging. The pulse is 54 and respiration 18.

Santaneli was taken into a justice's court and fined for simple assault. The case has been appealed.

DETROIT ALDERMAN ACCUSED.

Bribery Charged in Connection with the Million-Dollar County Building.

Detroit, April 3.—Alderman Christopher Jacob, for whom a warrant was issued this morning for soliciting a bribe, surrendered himself in court this afternoon, and was released on \$2,000 bail. Jacob, who represents the Fifth Ward, is by virtue of his office a member of the committee that was selected plans and superintend the erection of the new \$1,000,000 county building.

It is charged that Jacob went to the firm of E. E. Myers & Son and solicited money to secure the adoption of their plans. He is charged, according to the charges, in all \$28,000. Mr. Jacob is the most prominent member of the Council.

420 COLUMNS FOR 3 CENTS O-MORROW'S Merely Illustrated ER JOURNAL. NEST Easter Number ver Published.

THEY ALL TALKED FOR THE GREATER CITY WITH PRIDE AND STATISTICAL REASONS.

Consolidationists Make Arguments Before Mayor Strong.

Speeches Limited to a Discussion of the Merits of the Bill.

The Mayor Takes Occasion to Declare That He Favors a Union of the Cities.

COMMISSIONER PARKER SPEAKS.

Emphatically States That the Measure is Not a Political One—The "Machine" Had no Hand in Making It.

Advocates and opponents of Greater New York to the number of three score assembled for the second time yesterday to shed upon Mayor Strong the light of their opinions.

Mayor Strong, reclining with easy grace on his seat on high, blinked and nodded serenely as vehement partisans, ingeniously concealing private motives, expatiated glowingly upon the universal benefits to follow the acceptance of their plans. And Commissioner Parker said true, when, rising in defence of the Consolidation bill, he said:

"It was in a big clothes basket, and Mr. Beck extinguished it with a bucket of water."

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MAYOR PATRICK J. GLEASON, OF LONG ISLAND CITY.

Mayor Gleason Makes Convincing Arguments to His Constituents.

Long Island City Enthusiastically Indorses the Views of Its Chief.

The Council Unanimously Approves of the Greater New York Measure.

MR. GLEASON EXPECTS PROMOTION.

He Drops a Hint That the Mayor of the Consolidated Metropolis May Be a Son of His Own Town.

The Hon. Patrick Jerome Gleason, Mayor of Long Island City, was in his element last night. He had an opportunity to address an audience with absolute certainty that all his "rounded periods" would be received with appreciative applause.

It was at a hearing in the Council room at the City Hall on the Greater New York bill, before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Through some misunderstanding it had been announced that the hearing was to be held in the Queens County Court House. Probably a hundred citizens waited there until 8:30 o'clock, when word was received

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expect to double the money that I have invested in real estate within three years. As it is now, when people want to buy anything, whether it is a pair of shoes, a hat, a coat, or a house, they go over to New York. When we are a part of the great metropolis the people will spend their money here, for then we will have as big stores as they have across the river.

HEARTILY APPROVES THE BILL. I regard this bill as one of the grandest pieces of legislation ever attempted. It involves the welfare of all classes of people. If it becomes a law there will be more money for the workingmen, for the merchants and tradesmen and for investors of capital in Long Island City. I earnestly hope that no man's voice will be raised against it.

Captain Thomas Cullom addressed the meeting as a representative of the workingmen of the city. Among other things he said:

"I stand here as the friend of the toiler who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow. We want no more such hard times as we had during the three years prior to 1890, and we all know that they were harder here than in any other part of the country. We will not have them, either, if we become a part of the greater New York. I am happy to say that your noble Executive the Mayor is working for the laboring man in endeavoring to have consolidation effected. We have now only a little stream separating us from the golden city of this golden country. As soon as we become a part of that golden city corporations that pay high rents for buildings in Broadway will come over here and erect fine factories. No more will we see our workmen, with dinner pails in hand, crossing over to New York, Jersey City or Hoboken to earn a dollar and a half a day. There will be work enough for them right here. It is a beautiful bill, and its benefits will be felt in the next generation. Our children will go down on their knees and bless the Mayor who has done so much to bring about this consolidation."

MR. GLEASON WAS HAPPY. There was hearty applause at this reference to the Hon. Mr. Gleason, who looked prouder and happier than ever. Then there was a long pause of expectancy, followed by more applause as His Honor arose to address the meeting. Mr. Gleason said:

"I have fought for consolidation at every election for the last five years. At the last election I made consolidation the issue. Last year I had a bill drawn up making Long Island City one of the wards of New York, but it failed to pass. I am not tired of Long Island City and I am not ashamed of it, but I am sure that I would like to be a resident of New York, as we will all be before long. But we will stay right here just the same."

I expect to live and die in Long Island City, where the people have honored me so much, but I want to be part of the metropolis. There can be no doubt about the benefits that will come with the Greater New York. We will then have the very best municipal government. All the best intelligence in the world is to be found in New York—the greatest bankers, the finest lawyers and the wisest statesmen."

New York will derive even more benefit from the consolidation than we will. It will obtain possession of the finest water front property there is to be had. And it will be enabled to bury its dead within its own city limits. Then the Long Island Railroad and the Standard Oil Company will not be able to evade the payment of their taxes."

I naturally no reason why I should not sign the bill, and there are many reasons why I should sign it. It will make New York a place to do business in and Long Island City will become the home of the masses of toilers. Who knows but what Long Island City may furnish the first Mayor for the Greater New York?"

There was loud cheering as His Honor closed his address with that query, and the citizens nudged each other and looked knowing, as if they really believed that the Honorable Patrick Jerome Gleason might succeed the Honorable William L. Strong in the New York City Hall.

At the end of the Mayor's speech the Board voted unanimously in favor of the bill.

JUNIOR FOIL FIGHTERS.

Young Swordsmen Fought Fifty Bouts for the Roosevelt Medals at the Fencers' Club Last Night.

The initial bouts in the team tournament of junior swordsmen for the Roosevelt medals were begun at the Fencers' Club, No. 37 West Twenty-second street, last night, before a large gathering. Harvard, Yale, Columbia, the N. Y. Turn Verein and the Fencers' Club teams were the victors in the first round. Seven rounds, or over fifty bouts, were necessary to decide on the merits.

Harvard's team has heretofore been in the first class, but never having won been eligible in this contest, and now look like winners. The Fencers' Club team has also been first class men for five years, while the Yale and Columbia boys made their first appearance. The summaries follow:

E. E. Dana, Yale, defeated G. F. Kirby, Columbia, 4-2 to 3-3; R. A. Fitch, Columbia, defeated H. B. Wilcox, Yale, 6-10 to 1; J. P. Parker, Harvard, defeated John Allaire, N. Y. T. V., 4-2 to 2-5; Austin Riggs, Harvard, defeated C. R. Wendt, Columbia, 5 to 3-5; J. Gerard, Jr., fencers, defeated R. T. Dana, Yale, 5-8 to 2-3; J. V. Hoffman, Harvard, defeated E. F. Hinkle, Yale, 8-12 to 7-5; F. L. Claiborne (fencers) defeated Otto Reuss, N. Y. T. V., 5-10 to 2-17; John Allaire, N. Y. T. V., defeated R. T. Dana, Yale, 5-19 to 1-7; G. T. Kirby, Columbia, defeated H. B. Wilcox, Yale, 7 to 1-3; J. P. Parker, Harvard, defeated H. C. Fred, N. Y. T. V., 7 to 6-7; John Allaire, N. Y. T. V., defeated Austin Riggs, Harvard, 4-8 to 3-5; R. A. Fitch, Columbia, defeated R. T. Dana, Yale, 4-8 to 1-7; Otto Reuss, N. Y. T. V., defeated C. R. Wendt, Columbia, 6 to 1-7; J. Gerard, Jr., fencers, 5-10 to 1-3; G. B. Botcherd, Jr., fencers, defeated H. B. Wilcox, Yale, 6-12 to 2-1; E. F. Hinkle, Yale, defeated G. T. Kirby, Columbia, 5-12 to 1-3; Austin Riggs, Harvard, defeated H. B. Wilcox, Yale, 6-7 to 1-8; F. L. Claiborne (fencers) defeated C. R. Wendt, Columbia, 5-3 to 1-6.

RIVERSIDE YACHTSMEN MEET.

Racing Rules of the Long Island Union Discussed and Adopted.

The regular monthly meeting of the Riverside Yacht Club was held last evening at "The Arena." The club voted upon a resolution offered by Mr. Pierce, which was in substance a recommendation to adopt the racing rules of the Long Island Yacht Racing Union, of which the club is a member.

Vacancies in the Board of Trustees and standing committees were filled and after a discussion relative to the coming season's sport, the meeting adjourned. Commodore Dierenthaler has purchased the yacht "Eldon," which will be used for this season's racing. Preparations are being made to open the club house about May 15.

The Varant II is having a new and larger set of sails made and will in future race in the thirty-six foot class, as with her increased sail area her racing length will be lengthened too much to allow her in the class with the Acushla and Dragon.

ENGLISH SHELL AT CORNELL.

Coach Courtney Recommended Its Purchase, and It Will Be Tried.

Ithaca, March 3.—One result of the trip of the Cornell crew to the Henley regatta on the Thames last year was the favorable impression the English shells produced upon Charles E. Courtney, the coach of the crew. On the advice of the Cornell Navy management, one of the English shells was ordered. It has just arrived, and the oarsmen have been inspecting it.

The shell has slight sides, with an abrupt curve to a point, while American shells, as a rule, have sides half curving, gradually to the ends. In the English shells the arrangement of the seats is different, being placed alternately on either side. The Cornell boats are higher than the English ones, but it is thought other points will counterbalance the weight.

Consolidation will bring prosperity to all the people of Long Island City. It will advance real estate values fully 40 per cent. As for myself, I

Greater New York Commission, read a speech detailing the provisions of the proposed measure. He said the bill was a simple proposition, and was merely a step toward securing the appointment of the commission to which the matter of drawing up a proper charter should be committed. This commission, he explained, being made up of the Mayors of each of the affected districts, it was beyond doubt that each Mayor would look after the interests of the people of his locality.

Mayor Gleason arrived while Mr. Henschel was talking, and he took a seat among those favoring the passage of the present bill.

George J. Greenfield spoke about the beauties and facilities of Staten Island. He spoke for the Board of Trade of the little island, which he said really should be designated as a city of the second class.

"We are not poor," he said. "We do not come to you asking for anything. We come to you with property representing \$200,000,000 of assessed value, which, in fact, represents \$400,000,000."

Alderman W. M. K. Olcott made a brief, concise legal argument in favor of the bill, which, he said, was the most advantageous measure for all concerned at this period.

COUNSELLOR NOLAN ON HAND.

As Mr. Olcott sat down amid applause, a very tall, stout man, with a bristling pompadour, strode up toward the platform and thrusting his right hand into the flap of his Prince Albert coat, struck an impressive attitude. It was Counsellor Nolan, the unconscious wit and laugh provoker of the New York bar. Mr. Nolan was understood to be unfavorable to the consolidation measure, on the ground that most New Yorkers would be taxed "out of existence," as he put it.

Mayor Gleason followed. "I am going to tell you," he said, "that Long Island City asks no favors of New York. Our city's financial condition is as good as New York's and better than Brooklyn's. I am so much in favor of annexation to New York that if every one of my citizens was to stand up and say, 'Gleason, don't sign the bill,' I would pay no attention."

Ex-Judge J. R. Angell followed with an objection to consolidation on the general ground that there was no evident substantial benefit to follow an increase in the size of the municipality except a triumph over her growing rival, Chicago.

Then came the address of the session, that of Commissioner Parker, who spoke, he said, with the authority of the Police Commission. He said:

"I take a great interest in New York, and in her sister, Brooklyn, and I believe that if we marry them it will be a very successful match. We are plunging in the dark all the time, and I believe in following wise plungers such as Andrew H. Green. This is his grandest plunge."

Albert E. Henschel, secretary of the

Consolidationists, also spoke, and then W. B. Ellison, who is a natural orator with an impressive delivery, arose and spoke, substantially, as follows:

The measure in question is in my mind, the only feasible one at this time. It in effect declares for, but withholds or suspends, actual con-



MAYOR STRONG LISTENING TO THE CONSOLIDATIONISTS.